

## VANDALISM—and what it meant to Heather



MRS JAY SIMPSON and her daughter Heather, 13, examine Heather's wheelchair, which was found damaged after being taken from outside their Bristol home.

Heather, a spastic who has difficulty in walking, was bitterly disappointed when her wheelchair went missing because it meant she could not go out. The loss was reported in a local newspaper and a reader telephoned the police to

say that children had been seen running up and down the street with a wheelchair.

When the chair was returned, one wheel was missing and another badly damaged. But the story had a happy ending because before the chair had even been found, both the Brunel Lions Club and an anonymous well-wisher had offered to buy Heather a new wheelchair.

Picture by courtesy of Bristol Evening Post.

## Cupid on the line with phone-in marriage bureau

A UNIQUE phone service—the first in the world—is operating in Croydon for the benefit of handicapped people. It is a marriage bureau on tape run by Mr Mark Anthony.

And so successful is he at playing Cupid, the first couple to be matched have already been on holiday to Spain together and are full of plans for the future.

Mr Anthony explained: 'I started "Confide" about four months ago. There is a telephone marriage bureau in Sheffield and one in Japan, but that's all. Then after about six weeks I found I was getting calls from people who had been turned down by ordinary marriage bureaux on account of their handicaps—whether it was blindness or some other disability. These people were asking if I would turn their requests away and I said straight away "no."

'In fact now I've got a special machine to record their requests over the phone on tape so that they don't even have to move from home. The standard rate is £9 but that

is negotiable. If they say they are disabled, lonely and out-of-work—we'll it can be anything from £1 to £5. I play their tape for 24 hours and if they don't get any response I replay it at no extra charge.

'I've put in more machinery now so that we can handle 2,000 calls a day and up to 20 people can ring up at any one time. We are also going to put out a library on tape of the handicapped, but that's not ready yet.'

Mr Anthony stressed that anyone contacting him could go on the ordinary register if they wanted. 'I'm not treating them as a race from Mars. There's a hell of a lot of handicapped people such as spastics sitting by the phone so why not have phone pals instead of pen pals?' The numbers to ring are 01-689 5968 or 01-689 6409 for Mr Anthony or 01-689 5964/5/6/7 for the actual messages.

## Inflation How it cuts into spending power of charities

INFLATION running at 25 per cent is having dire effect on the budgets of every family in the country. For the vital charity movement it means that the purchasing power of their incomes is effectively reduced by one quarter.

And, warned Mr James Loring, the Director of The Spastics Society, in a speech at Blackpool in May: 'If hyper-inflation takes over—and the signs are all there—many important charities could go to the wall. It is a sobering thought that 1976 could prove to be Crisis Year for Britain's famous voluntary movement.'

Mr Loring pointed out that charities such as the Society subsidised central and local government heavily by providing services which are a statutory responsibility. Yet the problems of inflation had been made worse by successive Governments formulating legislation without considering its effect on charities. They had been compounded, too, by a Treasury that had failed consistently to understand the way in which charities operated, and their particular problems.

'Over the years,' he said, 'we

SEE BACK PAGE

## Knit one, plough one, reaps cash harvest for spastics



MORE at home with a plough or milking machine, these members of Launceston Young Farmers' Club in Cornwall found themselves learning a new skill far from the broad acres. The picture was taken during a sponsored knit-in for spastics.

Picture by courtesy of Western Morning News.

## For Marjorie—happiness is a comfortable new bungalow

THE campaign launched by 'Spastics News' in January to help Marjorie Chappell move from the inadequate housing she shared with her aged mother has at last been successful. For Marjorie, a severely handicapped spastic, who has had to battle against the double burden of physical disability and council apathy, has moved to a new home.

Marjorie, 49, has said goodbye to the sub-standard old people's bungalow with the damp bedding and 'stinking' kitchen walls and taken over the key to a modern three-year-old bungalow.

'First and foremost the wheelchair will go through every door except the bathroom, but the Council has taken the door off and put up a curtain,' said Marjorie, happily. 'They have redecorated two rooms, we have two nice bedrooms, a big kitchen with a lot of cupboard space—mother will get lost in it—and a lovely sitting room with a beautiful country view. The small garden is planted and being the end bungalow we have more garden than the others, and plenty of room for my workshop in a corner which will not interfere with anyone else in any way. The whole place is just right and when we get the phone installed I feel we are going to settle down here very happily.'

Yet at the turn of the year the story looked very bleak for the mother and daughter. The council refused to put a ramp to the front door—an understandable council economy since the place was sub-

standard. A phone was refused because it was felt Marjorie could crawl as far as the front gate—the nearest public phone is half a mile away, and to get through the house, Marjorie had to be tipped out of her wheelchair!

The only escape, or so it seemed, was for Mrs Gladys Chappell, aged 71, to go into an old people's home while Marjorie went into an institution.

### Dramatic

But then Marjorie wrote to Spastics News and the front page story by Peter Cook in January's issue led to a dramatic and fast—for a council—moving chain of events. Various council departments re-appraised the Chappell case and promised that within three months something would be done. Marjorie praised her local Housing Officer who 'Worked hard to find us a suitable bungalow,' and is writing to thank him.

By happy chance Marjorie knows several people already in her new village, which is only six miles from the Society's Thorngrove Centre.

### Her advice

Dorset County Council, has built a number of units to house old people, and is now turning its attention to the requirements of the disabled, although it will be three years before any projects get under way. In the past, Marjorie has given them plenty of advice on what will be needed, and jokingly suggested they get her along for the first official opening.

In the meantime, though, she will be concentrating on the work that has brought her a measure of independence and local admiration—the knitwear she produces which is in great demand.

## Welcome, Mrs Wilson



MR DORRIEN BELSON, Chairman of the Society, greets Mrs Wilson with a courtly bow as she arrives at the London headquarters with

her sister-in-law, Miss Marjorie Wilson, to present the prizes in the fifth annual literary contest for spastics. Full story on page three.





## Newest marathon idea —it's table football

**JOHN STANDEVEN** (left) and **Stephen Hansbro** were two of the students from Park Lane College, Leeds, who took part in a 48-hour table football marathon in aid of spastics. John and Stephen, with six fellow students, formed four teams and played in shifts of two hours on and two hours off. The players used methylated spirits to harden their hands during the two-day stint.

The event is expected to have raised more than

£100 which will go towards a therapy pool for spastic children at Larchfield School, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Picture by courtesy of Yorkshire Evening Post.

## Colour TV makes dream come true

A TWO-year-old dream came true for the 50 children of Southampton and District Spastics Association's Mordaunt school when they were presented with a colour television set. It was given by the Seven Seas Director Richard seas removal and travel organisation with money raised at a staff dance.

In receiving the gift from Seven Seas Director Richard Clarke, the Association's Secretary Mr C. F. Wyatt said: 'We have wanted a colour television for two years — now Seven Seas have made it possible.' Miss Du Preez, the headmistress, said the set would be particularly helpful for the more handicapped child.

And it is not only big business which has taken the children of Mordaunt to its heart. Recently three schoolgirls left a gift of £4 at the school to be spent 'on the children.'

## Popular headmistress is leaving Ingfield Manor to marry

**MISS EDNA VARTY**, headmistress of Ingfield Manor School, near Horsham, Sussex, since it opened in 1961, is leaving this year to get married.

She is marrying Mr Arthur Thompson, Principal Lecturer in English at the Northern Counties College in Northumberland.

Miss Varty is herself from Teesside and began her teaching career in an ordinary school there before moving to a special school in Coventry. She then spent three years at

the Carlson House school for spastics in Birmingham.

Miss Varty also spent a year in Switzerland helping a group of nuns to start a spastic unit in a school for the physically handicapped.

In 1957 she went as headmistress to a residential school, Horton Lodge near Leek, Staffordshire, before her appointment to Ingfield Manor.

No date has yet been fixed

for Miss Varty's departure, but it could be round Christmas time.

'I'm bound to feel sad,' said Miss Varty, 'when one's built something up like the school. The children just thought how nice it was for me to be engaged, but neither they nor their parents took it in that I would be leaving. They all presumed that my husband would come down to Ingfield.'

I really couldn't run the school once I'm married because I am inheriting three children aged between 10 and 14 and I shall be much too busy with the family.

'It is a lovely remote spot in Northumberland where I shall be living, and it will be lovely to go north again, although I like the south. No doubt when I settle down I shall be involved in working with the handicapped again. I like working with handicapped children and it would be a pity to give it up.'

## One-to-one project is on again this summer

# Volunteers needed to befriend forgotten hospital patients

THE One-to-One Project is in full swing again in preparation for the coming summer. Regular readers of *Spastics News* will remember that this exciting new project was launched last year in five long-stay hospitals for the mentally handicapped with the active and enthusiastic support of The Spastics Society. It proved to be such a success that it is now being extended to many more hospitals this summer.

Thousands of forgotten patients in these hospitals — many of them spastics — are being given the opportunity to join in a day of entertainments, games, amusements and fun, not just with the staff and any interested close relatives, but also with a band of enthusiastic volunteers. The aim is to provide as many patients as possible with at least one — if not two — volunteers to partner them for the day.

### Informal

We found last year that this was an excellent method of introducing a significant proportion of the local community to the patients and vice-versa. The informal and relaxed atmosphere reduced the possibility of tension and nerves on both sides — in fact, with so many things to do or watch or generally participate in, there wasn't much time to worry about anything! The events ranged from netball to skittles, from bubble blowing to body painting, from percussion bands to Punch and Judy shows, from sack races to discotheques, with a liberal sprinkling of clowns, travelling entertainers and the like. The

aim was to provide a wide variety of activities from which the patients and volunteers could choose — so often a choice is denied to our mentally handicapped people through force of circumstance.

### Last year

In the pilot project last year, the local voluntary help organisers, with the help of a national organiser, managed to involve well over 1,300 volunteers. We wanted to encourage the public to visit the hospitals involved so that they could see for themselves that they were not as 'black' as the media and conventional mythology tend to imply and to recognise that the patients were in desperate need of some contact with other ordinary people. We hoped that at least some of the people who went along would be willing to make a more regular commitment to the hospitals and the patients.

Although we were unable to continue our organisation after the day itself last year, due to lack of finance, we were very gratified to hear from the hospitals that at least 10 per cent of the new volunteers were still visiting the hospitals three months after the day. Not only that, but some of the hospitals recruited new nursing staff as a direct result of the day, and many new members of their League of Friends, etc. One hospital in particular, the Ida Darwin, near Cambridge, found that there was a dramatic increase in the number of groups of people — be they the local police force, a nearby US Air Force Base or schoolchildren — who began to take a regular interest in the hospital's work and, above all, in the patients themselves.

### Money

Nigel Evans and I began to think late last year about how to raise enough money to expand the project this year and also about how to ensure that we could initiate a proper and effective follow-up study. We were spurred on in our attempts by the fact that all the five hospitals that had taken the plunge with us in the pilot project indicated that they wished to be involved again — and three of them said that even if we were unable to organise the day ourselves they would go ahead on their own!

We were fortunate in retaining the active support of all the charities and trusts that had supported us last year — particularly The Spastics Society and The Sembal Trust — but we knew that we needed a further injection of funds if our plans were to be realised. That came from a generous grant from The King's Fund Centre. From the early days, Miles Hardie and James

Elliott at the Centre took an active interest in the project and they helped us to organise a conference on One-to-One last January. The Centre's financial backing came soon afterwards.

The hospitals involved this year have chosen a Saturday in June or July to suit their own particular local timetables. The first day is on June 7 at Ida Darwin, near Cambridge, and the last is on July 5 at South Ockenden, and at Prudhoe, near Newcastle. On June 21 it is the turn of Forest Hospital Horsham, and on June 28, Harpenden, Radlett, Herts; Bromham, Bedford; Turner Village, Colchester; Bridge, Witham; and Brockhall, Blackburn. St Margaret's, Birmingham, which took part last year, has indicated that although it will be unable to hold a One-to-One Day in June or July, due to the pressure of other events, it hopes to hold one in September. A number of other hospitals are still at the preliminary discussion stage and so we hope to add to the list above.

We are again looking to the

Society's local groups for support. In addition, we are in need of materials and games for the day — if you think that your local work centre might be able to help, have a chat with our organisers, or with Mike Helmes at Society headquarters who is in close touch with them. Above all, this is an excellent project for involving more people in the work of The Spastics Society — particularly those who want to give their time rather than their money.

Recent Government policy has stated that the wider use of volunteers in the mental health field is a necessity — One-to-One aims to further this policy through a constructive and exciting project. We are naturally keen to recruit all kinds of help — leaflets and ideas sheets outlining the type of help required can be obtained from the hospitals or from Mike Brown, c/o International Voluntary Service, 91 High Street, Harlesden, London, NW10, telephone 01-965 1446.

GRAHAM BURN

## The name of the game is integration



THE playgroup at Colwall Court in Sussex is now a year old, and has proved a great success in integrating spastic and non-handicapped children.

Colwall Court, which is run as a children's holiday home by the Stars Organisation for Spastics, inaugurated the playgroup scheme so that the handi-

capped guests could have a chance to mix with local children. It is run by State Registered Nurse, Mrs Eileen Moore.

Pictured at the playgroup are, from left to right, Clare Richards, Fiona Gray and Stephen Harris.

Picture by courtesy of Bexhill Observer.

*Dorothy Ward*  
LIMITED

MAKERS OF QUALITY  
CLOTHES

601 LONDON ROAD, HADLEIGH, BENFLEET, ESSEX



# Mrs Wilson presents literary prizes

## Supports spastics writers for fifth year running

—and brings  
PM's sister  
along too

IT was quite a family affair when The Spastic Society's fifth annual literary contest awards were presented by Mrs Harold Wilson in May. For not only did the prize-winners bring their family and friends along, but so did Mrs Wilson.

She brought along her husband's sister, Miss Marjorie Wilson, up from Cornwall on a family visit, to watch the presentations. And there were presents for Mrs Wilson to take back to Number 10—two little pink soft toys for the tiny Wilson twin granddaughters, Jennifer and Catherine, born earlier this year.

Made at Colwall Court by parents of children who attend the play group there, the little toys were decorated with heather brought all the way from Scotland by James Anderson, 11-year-old winner in the schoolchildren section.

### Grateful

Mr Dorrien Belson, Chairman of the Society, welcomed Mrs Wilson and said how deeply grateful the Society was that she had taken such an interest in the contest, judging the poetry and presenting the prizes each year since its start. He also thanked the other judges, 'Evening Standard' columnist, Merry Archard, who writes about young people, 'Daily Mirror' columnist and playwright Keith Waterhouse, and ITN newscaster and author Gordon Honeycombe, for giving their time.

He added that the literary competition increased in popularity each year. This time there had been over 300 entries from people ranging in age from eight to 60 from all over the country.

Mrs Wilson had a word of



MRS WILSON happily agreed to sign autographs for fellow poetess Jackie Longstaff, and schoolgirl winner Angela Chaundy, both of the Carlson House School, Birmingham, run by the Midland Spastics Association.

encouragement for all those who did not win. 'People who don't win, mustn't be discouraged—the one who wins is just one person's choice and they choose the kind of writing they like.'

She recalled judging a Mine Queen competition recently in which all the contestants were lovely and none of the judges could agree. 'My husband said to me: 'I know which ones you like—the ones with the sweet old-fashioned Victorian faces like angels'.'

She went on to explain that when it came to writing poetry she liked formal poetry which rhymes and scans—the type she writes herself, rather than verse. 'People say how relaxing it is to write poetry—for me it is like Jacob wrestling with the angels!'

'I write it, revise it, put it away for three months in a drawer, get it out again and work on it some more. . . . In fact even when it's in print I'm still very often not satisfied. If I have to give a recital of one of my poems, and it's not a very well known one, I often change the words without people realising.'

Mrs Wilson stressed: 'You have to make words your subject and become the master of them—and when you succeed the euphoria is marvellous.'

However, she admitted that

she could never manage to write dialogue and for this reason had given up all ideas of becoming a novelist, adding: 'Perhaps Mr Honeycombe could advise me!'

Mrs Wilson chose 12-year-old Jacqueline Longstaff of the Carlson House School, Birmingham, as winner of the female prize in the poetry section, and Stuart Fowler, of Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, who works at the Meadway Works, for the male prize. It is the second time that Mr Fowler has won the prize—the first time was at the first ever competition.

### 'Agonising'

Merry Archard said she spent an agonising Sunday assessing the schoolchildren's work, but came to the conclusion that James Anderson, the schoolboy winner, was a born writer, and that Angela Chaundy, 13, also of the Carlson House School, had written a very practical story about how she spent £10. 'I think Mr Wilson would have approved,' was her comment.

Keith Waterhouse confessed to laughing aloud as he read Sue Woodbine of Sheffield's winning entry in the young adult (female) section, and said that Stephen Jones, of Redbrook, Monmouth, came within an ace of being disqualified for his entry in the male section. 'I thought he must be a professional writer. He makes one word do the work of 10. I read it several times and always found another point. I don't know if he's sold any of his writings—I hope he does.'

Gordon Honeycombe immediately charmed his audience: 'Accustomed as I am to public speaking, I am not accustomed to do it without the aid of teleprompter and arc lights blazing.'

### Charmed

He explained the reasons behind his decisions: 'I was looking for literary qualities since this was a literary competition, so I wanted creativity, originality and imagination—stories which told me a story.' He said that he felt that the autobiographical entries did not really meet this requirement—'So I was severe on that score.'

He said that Mrs Maureen

Carr, of Welwyn Garden City's story was 'far and away the best of all stories.' It was quite remarkable, most professional and couldn't be faulted on any level.' He was also full of praise for the article by Bernard Brett, MBE, the well-known charity worker who came second in this year's Achievement Award. 'It really came across to me and I wanted to read more. I was sorry it stopped where it did.'

In presenting the Director's Special Prize, James Loring said that there was always someone who did not win although their work was meritorious. He chose Phillip Sheldon, eight-year-old pupil at Wilfred Pickles School, Lincs, who wrote 'The Witch's New Spell Book.' Mr Loring commented: 'So if anyone wants a spell cast—Phillip's the boy!'

### Results and more pictures on page 4



ROY LAVER, Director of Top Ten Promotions Ltd, with Miss Marjorie Wilson from Cornwall, where she is closely associated with the handicapped. Miss Wilson, a former headmistress, was staying with her brother, the Prime Minister, in order to visit her new great-nieces for the first time.



CIVIL servant Stephen Jones with judge Keith Waterhouse. Stephen's short story was acclaimed by Mr Waterhouse, who urged Stephen to write more. 'I don't know about a career but I wouldn't mind making money out of it,' was Stephen's reply.



MRS WILSON with Phillip Sheldon, who was presented with a special prize by the Society's Director, James Loring.



SCHOOLBOY winner James Anderson poses with, left to right, Dorrien Belson, Chairman of The Spastics Society, Merry Archard, Anne Mat'iam of the Scottish Council for Spastics, and his mother.





A RATHER shy Maureen Carr collects her prize from Mrs Wilson. Maureen confessed that her husband was prouder of her achievements than she was. She was the more surprised by her success.



MRS WILSON congratulates Stuart Fowler, who won the male poetry prize for the second time in five years.



SUE WOODBINE chats here to Keith Waterhouse. Sue, a student in Sheffield, finds her essays have improved since she entered the contest.



IVAN CREED and Bernard Brett with judge Gordon Honeycombe, who suggested Bernard developed his prize-winning entry into a full-length novel.

## Literary contest results

### POETRY

Male: Stuart Fowler (33), Flat 1, 5 Yorklea Croft, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham 37. Title of poem: 'Phantom Band.'

Judge: Mrs Mary Wilson. Comment: 'This poem, of course, should be sung rather than read. It conjures up a vivid picture of an empty dance hall and a phantom band: a very lively rhythm.'

Female: Jacqueline Longstaff (12), 45 Bond Street, Stirchley, Birmingham 30. (Carlson House School, Victoria Road, Birmingham 17.) Title of poem: 'The Blossom Tree in the Garden.'

Judge: Mrs Mary Wilson. Comment: 'This is a good, simple poem, well-imagined. It paints a descriptive picture and is good technically, particularly as the poet is only 12 years old.'

### SCHOOL CHILDREN

Male: James Anderson (11), 35 Cardross Road, Broxburn, West Lothian (Westerlea School, 11 Ellersley Road, Edinburgh). Title of article: 'A Day with my Dad in the Mercury.'

Judge: Merry Archard. Comment: 'James took a lot of trouble; he has the ability to detach himself from his own problems and situation... a born writer!'

Female: Angela Chaundy (13), 21 Downside Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24 (Carlson House School). Title of article: 'The Day my Mother and Father gave me £10.'

Judge: Merry Archard. Comment: 'I found this entry particularly interesting, especially the way in which Angela tackled the problem of how to spend the money to the best advantage; this entry has a special appeal because it is so very practical and shows her forward thinking.'

### YOUNG ADULTS

Male: Stephen J. Jones (22), 4 Wye View Terrace, Redbrook, Monmouthshire. Title of article: 'Gentle Rain.'

Judge: Keith Waterhouse. Comment: 'This is an exceptionally vivid piece of writing—an incident rather than a story, of the kind that Hemingway might have written had he been reporting the Ulster conflict. He has the professional's knack of making his statements obliquely so that his tangents of phraseology are always unexpected, fresh and punchy. The philosophical content of the interior monologue is convincing, well thought out and original. Altogether a very exciting contribution.'

Female: Susan Mary Woodbine (24), 336 Verdon Street, Burngreave, Sheffield. Title of article: 'Free Speech.'

Judge: Keith Waterhouse. Comment: 'This is a very fresh and original contribution. Miss Woodhouse's theme is speech therapy and she might very well have given us a straightforward and knowledgeable report on the subject. Instead she has mixed in personal anecdotes, observations, little

incidents and the result is that she keeps us entertained as well as informing us on the way. Above all her essay has humour; she has a nice sense of the absurd and an eye for the ironies of life. A most refreshing piece of work.'

### OVER 25's

Male: Bernard Brett (38), 42 Creffield Road, Colchester. Title of article: 'The Terrace.'

Judge: Gordon Honeycombe. Comment: 'The Terrace' showed great talent. It was vivid and sensuous, and recreated a mood and a place remarkably well. It might be worth his while to develop the situation into a full-length novel, though he should guard against self-indulgence and increase his vocabulary.'

Female: Maureen Carr, 25 Blakesmere Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. Title of article: 'Delusions of Grandeur.'

Judge: Gordon Honeycombe. Comment: 'Maureen Carr's short story was by far and away the best of all the entries I read. It had all the qualities I was looking for, imagination, originality and creative effort. It could not be faulted. I thought it a very professional piece of work.'

### DIRECTOR'S SPECIAL PRIZE

Phillip Sheldon (8), 422 Kedleston Road, Allestree, Derby. Attends Wilfred Pickles School, Tixover Grange, Duddington, Stamford, Lincs.

## The Japanese experiment

# Can hypnosis help spastics?

PROFESSOR SHUN KIMURA, of The Department of Psychology, Gunma University, Japan, has been working with spastics for a number of years to see if they could be helped by hypnosis, and he was in Britain recently talking about the results of his work.

He told psychologists attending the British Psychological Society's annual conference that he had treated 12 men and nine women with cerebral palsy.

The first step had been to study the muscular tensions of able-bodied students with a writing pressure-meter. He found that while muscular tensions could be reduced under hypnosis, experimental disorders in writing could also be produced by hypnotic and post-hypnotic suggestion.

When spastics carry out purposive activities they have abnormal muscular tensions and disturbed motor activity. It was felt that this kind of involuntary movement and lack of co-ordination could be reduced by putting the patients into a hypnotic trance and then teaching them the correct pattern of movements by conditioning techniques.

### Results

The result of treating the 21 adults who suffered mainly from motor disorder was: 57 per cent very effectively improved, 38 per cent effectively improved, and five per cent no effect at all. The changes were monitored by the writing pressure-meter.

Work was also carried out on spastics with speech disorders. While under hypnotic

trance they were first trained to control their breathing. Next they were trained to utter vowels and consonants so that the vocalisation was without blockage as in normal speech.

Their speech was then measured by spectrograms and tape recordings. Intelligibility was rated from 28 per cent to 83 per cent over a period of seven months, by 38 speech therapists.

Professor Kimura has been working with children, and treatment has also been undertaken at Timur University where similar results have been maintained.

### In Britain

Dr Donald Gough, the Society's Consultant Psychiatrist, said: 'There is nothing surprising in the Professor's claims and it is certainly very interesting. However, I don't know of anyone practising it on any scale in this country.'

He pointed out that in fact a patient's response to hypnosis would in any case depend on his initial attitude. 'If someone lies down like a limp duck to get hypnotised they'll get up the same way. If you believe in hypnosis it is rather like faith healing, the hypnotist has a good start and hypnosis is likely to be helpful. Certainly hypnosis has been used with good effect in treating a number of asthmatic children.'

But Dr Gough also stressed this point: 'People who have actual physical dysfunction appear able to do things they can't do otherwise once you inspire them to behave better than they thought they could. It is the same when people are ill with flu—they very often think they are much worse than they really are and behave like big babies. If you settle for doing less than you think you can do, then that happens.'

'I saw a man recently who doctors assured me was quite capable of walking, but nevertheless, he could only walk by shuffling and hanging on to the wall—because he was afraid of falling. Now if he was hypnotised so that he was no longer afraid of falling he could walk—because the fear would be eased. He could be helped—but not cured.'

## Lively discussions at West Region conference

THE WEST Regional conference, details of which were reported in our last edition, proved to be most successful.

In a sparsely populated region where travel is not at all easy, 130 delegates attended. It was very encouraging to see that of this number, half were representatives from various statutory authorities and other agencies working for the handicapped in the six counties of the region.

The conference delegates were welcomed by the Bishop of Crediton from the chair, and Mrs Joyce Smith, a vice-chairman of the Society, gave a brief report of Society and group activities in the region. Mr Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Director of Resources, presented a challenging and thought-provoking talk on integration in all its aspects.

His talk was followed by the film 'A Change of Place,' the Habinteg Housing Association's production, which he introduced. After this a very lively, diverse and interesting discussion took place in which there was a gratifying participation from the floor.

After luncheon, which most delegates enjoyed in the grounds of Exeter University in warm sunlight, Miss Valerie Lang, herself an athetoid, spoke to the conference from the point of view of a disabled person. 'Meeting People,' Miss Lang's talk was not only penetrating but laced with a delightful humour. This, too, provoked discussion from the floor. The final speaker, Mr K. F. J. Evea, area resettlement adviser, South Western Area,

rounded off the exceptionally interesting talks of the day by discussing the problems, difficulties and regrettably, few rewards in providing and finding work for the handicapped commensurate with the dignity of living. As with the others, his talk provoked a very lively discussion.

The conference ended by an 'Any Questions' panel chaired by Mr A. M. Frank, Assistant Director, Regions, in which the speakers were joined by Mr William Burn, past Chairman of the Society; Mrs M. Neal, principal social worker, Social Services Department, Wiltshire County Council; and Mrs J. Hume, the Society's careers officer, South West.

## MOTORISTS

Come along — see for yourselves — we can supply all your requirements at discount prices

For example  
Exhaust systems 30% off  
Brake shoes 50% off

Open Sundays 10 am to 12.30 pm

**DRIVE & SAVE MOTOR ACCESSORIES**

5 BEDFORD PARADE, NORTH SHIELDS  
Telephone: North Shields 78629



## Wheelchair hero has 'message' for young readers

TO be crazy about football and pop music would make Mark Jordan just another 13-year-old kid living in a flat on a huge London housing estate if it were not for one vital difference.

While most of his mates can rush around, Mark enjoys the same activities from his wheelchair, because of spina bifida.

Mark is the 'wheelchair hero' of a new book by Camilla Jessel called 'Mark's Wheelchair Adventures,' in which he moves to a new flat with his family, makes friends, fights bullies and joins in a pop show.

Camilla Jessel's sympathetic photography of children has been seen before in 'Paul's in Hospital,' when she collaborated with Dr Hugh Jolly, and in numerous articles concerned with the handicapped child.

In her latest book she has set out to tell a story simply and directly to children aged between six and 13. Mark plays Mark Milligan and among his friends is Tessa McLoughlin, 13, a severely handicapped spastic.

Through them Miss Jessel reveals the thoughts and feelings of typical youngsters who have already learnt that many adults consider them handicapped in their heads as well as their bodies.

By directing it at a younger age group and presenting it as a story, Miss Jessel is reaching an audience which is just growing into awareness that



TESSA tries her hand at showing her new found friends Sue and Pearl a new way of 'talking.' The finger alphabet is illustrated in the book.

some people do appear different, and before they are so old that bigoted attitudes are firmly rooted.

Mark's friend Brian is amazed that Mark's baby brother is so rough with him until Mark points out that the little one is not really conscious of anything special about his big brother. Later the two pals go round to the sweetshop where the old lady behind the counter persists in talking to Brian about his 'poor cripple friend.'

The integration of the handicapped and the able-bodied children and the fun they have together, is related in a straightforward way.

As in all good children's stories the 'baddies' set on the goodies only to be routed, Mark taking his fair share in the fight. The concert brings all the children together, each performing their own thing.

So Mark, sitting to play his drums is at no disadvantage, and although Tessa is unable to recite the poem she has written, she can take part in a comedy sketch where all she has to do is sit.

It is an optimistic book but it is also very practical. In a matter of fact way it puts across the message that no matter how many times some-

one with a speech defect has to repeat themselves they would rather do that than be misunderstood. Without stressing the fact, the point is made that sometimes people in wheelchairs may tire more quickly than they like, and that they do not like to be too far away from home for too long because of bladder problems.

Mark's sister Susan tells a friend how fed up she gets because her brother is the focus of so much attention, and there is an accurate and amusing scene round the

family meal table when Mum is fussing, Sue is telling her Mum to stop it and Dad is telling Sue to mind her own business.

'Mark's Wheelchair Adventures' is the kind of book that should find favour with the librarians stocking up junior bookshelves and children who like something different to read, because it is both factual and entertaining.

'Mark's Wheelchair Adventures,' by Camilla Jessel, is published by Methuen's Children's Books Ltd, price £1.95.

## Joey's life story brings new hope for hospital girl

JOEY DEACON'S widely publicised life story has brought new hope to a severely handicapped little girl in a Surrey hospital.

As Spastics News readers will recall, Joey, a severe spastic with unintelligible speech, has spent nearly 50 years in a subnormality hospital. Yet, with the help of

other patients, he published a book, 'Tongue Tied,' and became the subject of a prize-winning BBC television film. Joey's friend and interpreter, Ernie Roberts, was this year's winner of the society's Achievement Award.

Last month, Joey received the following letter from an address in Croydon:—

*"I thought you would be pleased to hear of a little girl at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, who has been helped by your book. Tracey's teacher, since seeing you and your friends on television, has taken a special interest in Tracey as she says she is exactly like you. She now thinks Tracey is intelligent and has taught her to count by blinking. On the ward they have started to teach her to read."*

*"Although Tracey's parents do not visit her, a voluntary worker takes her out and I take her sometimes with her friend Caroline. You are lucky to have people who understand you. I hope one day Tracey will find a friend who can understand her when she talks."*

*"With love from Susan (Schram)."*

## The Orange Badge allows disabled people to park where others can't

### DISABLED PERSONS' BADGE

Name of Holder \_\_\_\_\_  
(CAPITALS)

The holder of this badge suffers from a severe physical handicap which impairs mobility, or is a registered blind person.

Chief Executive \_\_\_\_\_

Council \_\_\_\_\_

Valid until \_\_\_\_\_  
Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_



The Orange Badge scheme,\* which entitles disabled people—or their drivers—to special parking concessions, is being extended.

At present, badge holders may leave their vehicles, without charge or time limit, at parking meters and restricted parking spaces. From 1st June drivers with blind passengers can also benefit from the concessions.

And all badge holders can park for two hours on single or double yellow lines (when there is no ban on loading or unloading).

Vehicles must not, however, be parked in a bus lane at times when restrictions apply—and should never be left in any place where they might cause obstruction.

So, if you know any blind or disabled person, please tell them about the Orange Badge scheme. Further information, and a descriptive leaflet, should be available from your local council (Social Services department).

*\*Some Inner London Boroughs have their own schemes. Different concessions apply in Scotland; please consult your local council.*

Issued by the Department of the Environment

## Look who's sitting in our chair...



### Hostels couple are married

A LINK was forged between two of The Spastics Society's hostels in South Wales last month when Theresa McCarthy married John Sunderland at St Joseph's Church, Penarth. Up to the time of the wedding Theresa was a resident of the Penarth Hostel and an employee of the Sully Spastics Work Centre, while John lived at the Swansea Hotel, Mumbles. The couple are hoping to settle in Swansea, where John works at the local Remploy.

TAKING it easy at the Royal Society of Health Exhibition held each year in Eastbourne, is ATV Science Correspondent Peter Fairley, testing the merits of the Society's Newton 'E' wheelchair for himself, while the Society's Meadway Works manager, Mr Harold Cragg, tells him just why it is the best wheelchair of its kind on the market. Already orders worth £35,000 have been taken from all over the world.



# They came to worship in famous London church

OVER 150 people attended the annual Service of Dedication at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, on Sunday, May 11.

The service was a truly ecumenical occasion as various religions were represented. Father David Wilson, Chaplain to the Handicapped in the Diocese of Westminster, attended on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church; Mr Ernst Stein, of the West London Synagogue, and Mrs Stein, represented the Jewish community; and Mr D. J. Grundy, accompanied by Mrs Grundy, attended on behalf of the Free Church Federal Council.

Worshippers included men and women from the Society's Coombe Farm, Drummonds, Sherrards, Princess Marina and Kingston Work Centres, and from Thomas Delarue School, which also provided the choir.

Rows of steps were no barrier to the handicapped as Thames Valley Police cadets, supervised by Sgt Geoffrey King, were on voluntary duty to lift wheelchairs and help out wherever required.

The first lesson was read by 18-year-old Carole Matthews, of Thomas Delarue School. Mr Owen Parry, Chairman of the '62 Clubs, delivered the second lesson.

The sermon was given by the Rev Austen Williams, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields for the past 19 years, who used the analogy of David and Goliath to make the point that it is 'up to each one of us to discover in ourselves, the skill we can use in the service of God.'

And he said: 'Maybe at times you feel that life has dealt you a very difficult and hard blow, and that in some ways you are not equipped as you would wish to be or as many others are. But, under God, you are equipped to do what He enables you to do. You do not need somebody else's armour to discover in yourself that extra bit of loving, caring and patience. Since God made you and gave you the faculties to discover Him, respond to Him, and grow towards Him, you will be able



THE choir of Thomas Delarue School arriving at the church aided by cadets from Thames Valley police force.

to live as full a Christian life as anyone else on earth.

'The road is open and you must not be intimidated. There is a very great deal that you, like me, will never know or understand this side of death. But there are certain things that make sense to you, that you can try. To Him and not to other Kings, God calls you. He sends you, not to serve the world, not to know all the answers, but to be one of a growing number of people who will revive the life of the Church because they are no longer staggering about in borrowed armour but are doing the thing they know, the thing they can handle, the thing they cannot be argued or laughed out of.'

PICTURE below: Father David Wilson, representing the Archbishop of Westminster, Mr D. J. Grundy, representing the Moderator of Free Church, and Ernst Stein, representing the Chief Rabbi, illustrate the ecumenical flavour of the Service of Dedication.



MISS RUTH NICHOLLS, a sideslady at St Martin-in-the-Fields, lends a helping hand up the difficult steps to the church.



THE scene inside the historic church of St Martin-in-the-Fields as the annual service of dedication takes place.

## Frank speaking by spastics

"WHAT DO spastics think of our services?"

That was the headline in Spastics News above a story which told how the Executive Council was anxious to hear the views of spastics on the provision made for them by the Society.

One of the most thought-provoking letters came from a resident in a Society centre who said that during his 13 years in the care of the Society he had seen many changes, and most of them had been for the better "giving us more freedom and more choice."

However, he did feel that there should be more active participation by the residents in the running of the centres "because I feel that the only people who know what the spastics want are the spastics themselves."

He suggested too, that the idea of more active participation by spastics should be taken a step further — right into the headquarters of the Society. He complained that some of the questions he had been asked by people from headquarters had been "so idiotic" that he thought that there were some staff members who did not really know what a spastic was!

In reply, Mr Dorrien Belson, the Chairman of the Society, assured the resident that the question of greater participation by spastics in the running of centres, and maybe at headquarters too, was one which was already being discussed. He said he

understood how irritating it must be for a spastic to feel that there were people at headquarters who, seemingly, did not know much about the problems of the disability, but he went on:

"I can assure you that the members of the Executive Council, one of whom is a spastic, and several of whom — like myself — are parents of spastics, have a fairly good understanding of the problems and difficulties involved in providing the care we should like to give to all spastics."

Mr Belson assured the resident that those responsible for running the Society were genuinely anxious to learn from those on the receiving end of provision, "whether they like it or not, how they think it might be improved, in fact, any criticism at all — or even praise!"

Another correspondent, writing as a result of the same article, said he had found life in Society centres very satisfactory as everything conceivable was done to help the spastic. But now, he said, he had left a centre to marry and live in his own home and he had found his local authority unhelpful in providing the adaptations needed to accommodate his wheelchair. Spastics at home seem to be a rather neglected lot, he complained, and he thought the Social Services departments of local authorities should do much more to solve their problems.

## She wants to buy POSSUM

PATRICIA TRUSCOTT, of Plymouth, held a holiday dance at a local hotel — and the guests raised £100 for spastics.

Miss Truscott runs a taxi service which transports children to and from the Plymouth Spastics Centre, and she aims to buy a POSSUM for the pupils.

The centre already has one of these Patient Operated Selector Mechanism electronic units, and when Miss Truscott realised how much the equipment could benefit the most severely disabled, she made up her mind to buy them a second machine.

## GARDSHAW LTD. STEEL FOUNDERS

Specialists in  
heat resisting alloys  
and stainless steel  
castings

VULCAN FOUNDRY  
ECKINGTON: 2920

SN JN3



Stockholders  
A. T. ARNOLD

A. T. ARNOLD (Steel Stockholders) LTD,  
WOODSIDE WORKS, PEDMORE ROAD,  
DUDLEY, WORCS.  
Tel: Brierley Hill 79355-8, 77311-4.

SN JN1

Stock steel of guaranteed  
quality with same day or  
24 hour service

Most comprehensive range of plates in  
the country: 16 gauge to 12in thick  
rising by 1/32 increments and in areas  
up to 50ft x 10ft.

Mild steels, Boiler plates, EN8 and  
high yield quality structural sections,  
angles, U beams, channels, etc.

Plus an extremely wide range of bars  
for the drop forging trade from 1in  
to 6in diameter in Mild Steels, Carbons  
and Alloys, Spark Tested by experts.

24 HOUR SERVICE ANY-  
WHERE IN BRITAIN

## THOMAS GAMESON & SONS LTD.

Hot Dip Tinnings and  
Electro-Platers

(TIN, ZINC & CADMIUM)

Delta Way, Bridgtown, Cannock WS11 3AX  
Telephone: Cannock 4191

It's the finish that counts in the end!

SN JN7



# What makes a Toy Library tick?

## Liz Cook finds the answer in Bromley

IF it is big, bright and goes 'tinkle-bop', chances are that Bromley Toy Library have it in stock or would like to. For if there is one fact they have discovered in the last two years, it is that the last toy to be taken out is a beautifully made simple toy in plain unvarnished wood—that appeals strictly to the adults.

The more noisy and vivid the toy, the more popular it is with the handicapped children who attend the Toy Library at the new Bromley Methodist Church Hall.

Toy Libraries came into being because in 1967, Jill Norris, mother of a mongol and a birth-injured child with multiple handicaps, including aphasia (speech-impairment), and spinal problems, found that there were just no suitable toys about for them. So she swapped with a friend, and from that eventually has come the Toy Library Association.

### Needs more

The handicapped child as a rule needs more toys: both because the attention span is not so great as with the able-bodied child and, if mental retardation is a factor, childhood is effectively extended over a longer period.

Often a handicapped child means that it is less easy for a mother to get out shopping and to a certain extent social isolation develops and the whole family finds it difficult to go out together.

So Jill Norris decided that something should be done and approached the Mentally Handicapped Children's



SUSAN WILKINSON with four-year-old Stuart who attends the Phoenix Centre. Having just moved to the area, she made sure of joining the Bromley Library because Stuart had so enjoyed the library at Wandsworth where they lived before.



ANDREW, aged three, showed no interest in toys at all until he came to the Toy Library and started playing with the toy piano. Now he likes a wide variety of toys — but music is still his first love!

Society in Enfield, Middlesex, who agreed to help, and the Toy Library was under way. As it flourished, Jill came to give a talk on the BBC programme *Woman's Hour* and was flooded with inquiries. In 1971 the Royal College of Art held a competition for its students to design playthings for the handicapped child, and Jill wrote to interested parents suggesting they should meet after the exhibition with a view to founding a parent body and the Association came into being.

Now there are 180 branches in Britain—most are in the South East, but is a national organisation, and there are also Libraries in Eire, Australia, Holland, Canada and the USA.

Lesley Moreland, Director of the Association, explained: 'There were 90 last year—now that figure is doubled. In fact, it's doubled for the last three years. After a fairly slow start we now have lift-off! There are 100 in the planning stage.'

In the early days The Spastics Society loaned its premises for meetings of the Association, made grants to individual libraries, and this year will be the third time that the Association has held a course on running Toy Libraries at

the Society's Castle Priory staff training college.

Last year the Society made a grant of £1,000 to the Association which now has its own premises at Sunley House, 10 Gunthorpe Street, London E1.

The Bromley Toy Library started off two years ago in the old Methodist Church Hall from a foundation steering committee of representatives of Bromley Council, the Social Services Department, voluntary organisation and mothers of handicapped children. There were about six or eight families involved at first—and then the numbers shrank. But once the Library moved to its bright new premises in the centre of the Outer London suburb it has flourished, and the 40 plus families come from a wide area.

### A founder

Sally Johnson was one of the founders and she is now librarian. Her son, Alan, is a severely sub-normal mongol, now aged eight.

'We started off the library to promote social integration—our angle was the whole family coming as one, and all the children can borrow toys—not just the handicapped one.'

'Secondly, of course, was the



FIVE Toy Library enthusiasts up for the Cup! Miniature football fields, giant pedal-cars, see-saws and a huge, stuffed elephant are all part of the Library's £2,000 worth of stock. Toys must be big, bright and beautiful as well as hard wearing but they do not need to be educational. That should be something the children find at school.

factor of the child needing toys so much more, and thirdly, it was getting parents to meet each other. By integrating handicaps we can learn from each other—for instance Alan has a bowel problem which is unusual in a mongol and not uncommon in spina bifida, so I could learn from mothers of spina bifida children what to do.

### Like a club

'When you're stuck at home you feel so useless—now we feel it's more like a club and we're meeting to help each other. It's mostly mums, but a few dads come along. We have children with just about every handicap—mongols, aphasia, rheumatoid arthritis, spastics and spina bifida. We don't have any blind or deaf children, although God knows we are open to all. Any mother who feels her child is handicapped—by diabetes, for instance, or through losing a leg, is eligible. We did at one stage think of including the socially deprived when our numbers were so small, but then we felt it wouldn't really be practicable.'

The toys are bought by the 'Toy Purchasing Committee' of Sally Anthea Beattie and



IT is Madeline Webster's first visit to the Library and here she talks over details with Hilda Hoare, a founder-member. Madeline came with her husband, John, as well as Lisa, five, who is brain-injured, and little sisters Julie and Amanda: 'We always go everywhere together as a family,' she said.



BOBBY, his brother Alan, and Ralph, get down to serious business at the Saturday morning session. One of the aims of the Library is to encourage families to come together, and all the children are entitled to borrow toys.

Cont on Page 9



## News about the Spastics Pool

### Blackpool Convention enjoyed by 2,000 supporters

TWO thousand supporters of the Spastics Pool, many of them official collectors, attended a Convention at Pontins Holiday Centre, Blackpool, from May 10 to 17. The collectors qualified for the Convention and Gala week in a Top Ten Promotions incentive scheme earlier in the year.

Visits were arranged on four days of the week to three Spastics Society centres, Daresbury Hall, Irton Hall and Lancaster training centre.

There were two company presentations, the Sunday evening guest speaker was the Director of The Spastics Society, James Loring, and on the Thursday evening, Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Director of Resources, gave an address. Mr Ian Dawson-Shepherd, member of the Executive Council, Rodney Brooks, Finance Director, and Tony Frank, Assistant Director, Regions, also attended the Convention.

Both the Homework Section of the Society and Thorngrove Agricultural Centre were represented with displays.

The team of 24 from Top Ten Promotions, Bristol, was led by Director Geoffrey Arter.



## A big win for Angela

MISS Angela Sewell, aged 21, is pictured after receiving a cheque for £1,233.05 from the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Fred Goater. Angela, of Taplin Drive, Hedge End, qualified for her prize on the first dividend of the Spastics Pool. Herself a spastic, Angela attends the Bishopstoke Training Centre in Church Road, Southampton, each week. After the presentation Angela was entertained to tea by the Mayor.



Picture above: At a pop show at the Kings Theatre in Southsea, the New Faces presented Mr Robin Coles and his wife, Sylvia, with Qantas air tickets for a Far Eastern tour. The couple, who live at Waterloo Street, Southsea, won first prize in a recent Spastics Pool competition.



A RECENT first dividend win of £1,180.40p was shared by Kevin McDermott, 22, and his father, Edward McDermott. The presentation of the cheque was made by Mike Burley of Top Ten Promotions at a collectors' evening held at the Newcastle Labour Club.

Kevin McDermott, of Cross Avenue, Wallsend, pays his weekly subscription to Collector Louis Butler, a Canadian who has collected from his 270 members for the past 15 years.

Our picture shows, from left to right, Louis Butler, Edward and Kevin McDermott and Mike Burley.



A CHEQUE for £979.66 was presented to Mr Basil Misun by Joe (Mr Piano) Henderson at the Rainbow Room, Rainbow Hotel, Torquay.

Mr Misun, of Empire Road, Westhill, Torquay, qualified for a share of the

first dividend on the Spastics Pool. From left to right: Joe Henderson, Mr Ted Moore, the hotel's PRO, Mr and Mrs Misun and Mr J. J. Lynch, the local collector who is also Chairman of the Torbay Spastics Appeals Committee.

## Your June food news

### Such temptation at the greengrocers

HAVE you noticed just how colourful and tempting displays in the greengrocers are at present? Splashes of reds, greens, whites, delighting the eye as well as tempting the palate.

Perhaps it is because there is so much new-season's home-grown produce on show. What with new potatoes—and we all know just how good they are—rich globe beet-roots, sweet tender peas, crunchy, juicy bunched carrots, together with broad and French beans, baby turnips, small succulent courgettes and vegetable marrows, it is no wonder we all want to try as

many of them as we can.

And of course, to tempt even more money from your purses there are the fruits of summer, the strawberries, gooseberries, cherries, with early sprinklings of raspberries, loganberries and currants.

Saladstuffs are equally plentiful, and are as crisp and as fresh as they should be. The best way to get true value from any of the fruits and vegetables about now is to eat them up as quickly as possible and buy more. There is more flavour and a better texture to all fresh foods, more food value, too.

Not to be outdone when it comes to providing money's worth are home-produced meats which always seem to taste even better at this time of year. Mind you, that is not surprising as far as young English lamb is concerned. This is considered by gourmets to be one of the best meats to be found anywhere in the world.

As soon as the soft fruit season begins, the sales of



fresh cream increase and there is a steady demand for tempting concoctions that make your mouth water in eager anticipation.

Here is a recipe for one such delight.

#### STRAWBERRY AND CREAM GATEAU

(Serves 6-8)

2 x 7in chocolate Victorian sponge cakes  
3pt fresh double cream  
1½lb strawberries  
Kirsch  
Flaked nuts

Split the cakes. Whip the cream. Set aside a few whole strawberries for decoration and mash the rest to a pulp with a little caster sugar if necessary. Pour a little Kirsch on each sponge and sandwich the four together with pulped fruit and whipped cream. Spread the sides of the layered cake with cream, spike with flaked nuts and decorate with halved berries. Pipe the remaining cream on to the top of the cake and decorate with more halved strawberries.

## THE BRITISH SCREW COMPANY LTD.

Manufacturers of Cladding Fasteners and Hooks and Eyes

153 KIRKSTALL ROAD, LEEDS LS4 2AT

Telephone (0532) 30541. Telex 55363 Britscrew, Leeds

SN JN6

## DOUGHTY-WEBB

& COMPANY LIMITED

ENGINEERS

BRIGG ROAD, SCUNTHORPE

LINCOLNSHIRE DN16 1AX

Telephone: Scunthorpe 66226/7/8

SN JN8

## FALKINGHAM & TAYLOR

(VENDING) LTD

Automatic Industrial Catering Specialists  
Suppliers and Operators of Automatic Vending  
Machines and Vending Ingredients  
DURBAN STREET, OFF NEW CLEVELAND STREET  
HULL. Tel Hull 20600 (3 lines)  
Hull and East Riding's only accredited Operators of  
GKN Sankey Equipment  
Skilled Service Engineers Available on Request

SN JN14

## D. F. HOBERN LTD.

Designers and Manufacturers of  
PRECISION MOULDS AND TOOLS  
TO THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY

Injection and Compression Moulds ½ oz to 32 oz.  
Blow Moulding Tools • Extrusion Dies • Special Equipment

FRYER WORKS, ABERCROMBY AVENUE,  
HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS. Telephone High Wycombe 26553

SN JN9

## WIDDOWSON DALEBROOK ENGINEERS LIMITED

BASFORD ROAD, CREWE. Telephone 661111 (3 lines)

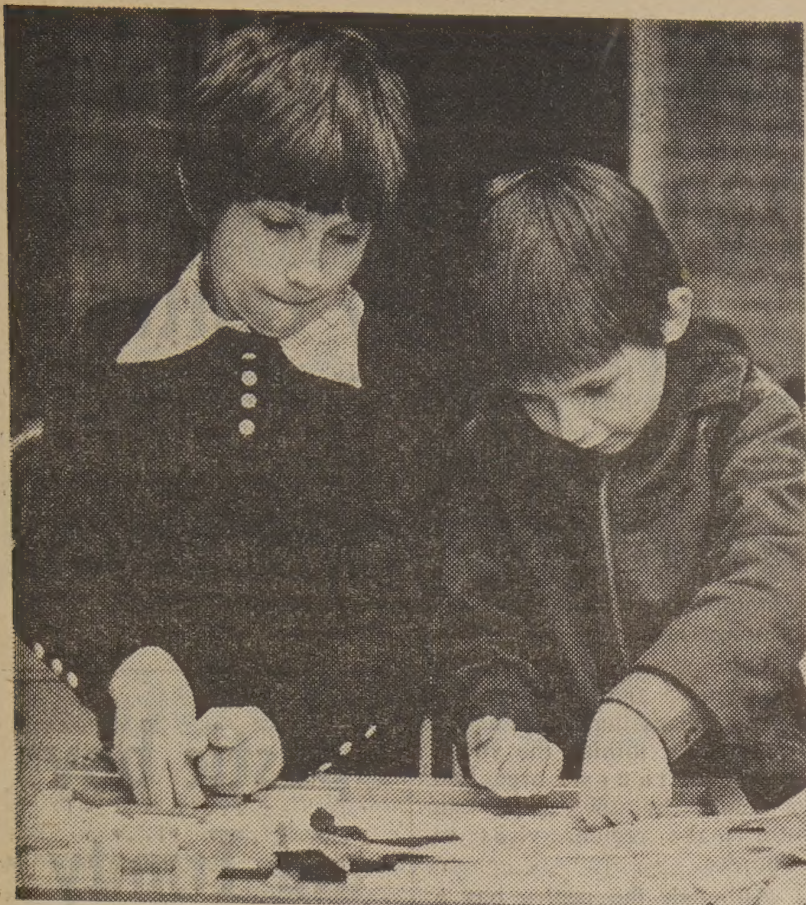
ENGINEERING STOCKHOLDERS LTD

A subsidiary of Widdowson Dalebrook Engineering Ltd  
Engineers Merchants • Nut and Bolt Stockists  
Tools for all Trades • Car Accessories • Fishing Tackle

22 Pepper Street. Tel: Nantwich 65999

SN JN5





AMANDA and her brother James, six, enjoy a game together. Their mother, Mrs Marie Freeman, joked: 'I don't think anyone should buy toys now.'



SHELAGH MURRAY, an occupational therapist, was 'roped in by a friend' to help out at the Library a year ago. Here she demonstrates the Library favourite, a clock-work record-player, to a group.

## The Toy Library

Cont from Page 7

Margaret Taylor. The toys come from all the big manufacturers such as Galt, Tonka, Tiger Toys, etc, but undoubtedly the most popular are the Fisher-Price range. They make the big colourful tinkle-pop variety of toy. Said Anthea, 'We're looking for durability of course—the toys have to take a lot of punishment, being banged and hurled about, but one thing we don't want them to be is educational. The children can get those—or at least should get those at school. We want toys that are fun!'

So one of the most sought-after toys is the Fisher-Price gramophone—sturdy, virtually unbreakable and brightly coloured with five discs playing 10 tunes.

'We've found that our children love music so much that we're trying to think of ways of adding to our musical stock,' said Anthea. The money for them comes from grants from interested bodies like Rotary clubs, Young Wives and Bromley Council. On average they cost £10, if not more. The children take them out for either 5p or 10p and there are roughly 200 toys to choose from. The ones that get put back in the store cupboards—specially built for the Library by the Trustees of the Methodist Church at a cost of

£200—are the jig-saws and the plain wooden blocks.

'None of the children care for them—they'd rather have Sally's home-made toy of a lettuce-shaker which they pretend is a washing machine for dolly's clothes,' said Margaret. 'The handicapped child really likes the same toys as the able-bodied, but may not be able to handle them. The blind and deaf children don't seem to need special toys at all, but don't like anything too big—they want toys they can fit their hands round.'

### Contacts

Marjorie Atkinson is secretary of the Library and her nine-year-old son Philip is a spastic. A tireless worker with the Phoenix Centre, a number of mothers heard of the Library through meeting her, while others were contacted by the children's special schools. The cost of renting the hall is £3.25 a session with donations for the coffee that is served and a 25p subscription.

Mrs Atkinson shakes her head over 'the current economic situation.' She runs a stall for the Toy Library at the big Christmas Charity Fair and any toys donated to the Library that are unsuit-

able for lending out are sold then. 'So we make use of everything we're given,' said Marjorie.

With such a variety to choose from, parents are quickly guided by their children as to what they really want. Said Mrs Pauline Thomas, whose younger son, Andrew, aged three, is hemiplegic, 'He's definitely benefited from coming here. He was born with a cerebral haemorrhage so I didn't have to make a drastic adjustment as far as his handicap was concerned. We knew more or less straight away. But he just wasn't interested in toys. Then I heard about the Library through Mrs Atkinson, brought Andrew along and he started banging away at a piano—so we knew then he liked musical things.'

### Presents

The toys help the parents, too, when it comes to present buying. Usually the children are so pleased with what they've borrowed for their 5p that it turns up for Christmas or birthday. So Paul Beattie, seven last month and aphasic, got the toy record player that thrilled him. However, Marie Freeman, whose daughter Amanda, aged 10, is a spastic and who is one of the original mothers, added: 'I think the toy library is a marvellous idea—I don't think anyone should have to buy toys now!'



PHILIP, with his parents Peter and Marjorie Atkinson. Marjorie is secretary of the Toy Library and has masterminded its development from a few mothers meeting in an old, uninviting hall to a flourishing and expanding group.

## Spastics aid Cardiff to cash record

A WEEK of fund-raising activities organised by the Cardiff and District Spastics Society, brought in a record total of £1,050. One of the events was a Doorknock during which £62 was collected by young Army Cadets.

The week culminated in a flag day when five local spastics between them collected £147.

## Beach chalet in Wales

RHUDDLAN and Delyn Spastics Group in Wales offer the use of its beach chalet to spastics and their families visiting the seaside resort of Rhyl.

The chalet is next to a public car park, there are no steps, and toilets are nearby. To reserve the chalet by the day, please contact Mrs J. Millington, Group Secretary, 90 Queen's Park, Mold, Clwyd (tel 56454).

## Do you need lodgings . . .

THE mother of an adult spastic in Newcastle upon Tyne offers lodgings to a young handicapped lady who is independent for personal care.

Please contact Mrs Warner, 35 Whycote Court, Jesmond Park East, Newcastle upon Tyne (telephone Newcastle 814170).

## . . . or a pool?

CROYDON and District Spastics Society children's centre has a small hydrotherapy pool, 8ft x 6ft, suitable for use as a swimming pool with heating and filter units available free to any interested group. For further details phone 01-688 7560.



KATHERINE, aged seven, suffers from rheumatoid arthritis. Here she plays with Linda Plummer, one of the International Voluntary Service workers who come each Saturday the Library is open to lend a hand.



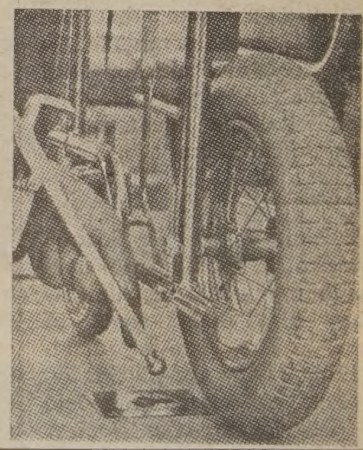
TIME to go home! And two-year-old Amanda Webster is determined to be first away with the push-along dog. For 5p he's hers for two weeks—and, who knows, Father Christmas might bring her one of her own.

## UNWIN

The Quiklok Clearface Clamp

The safe way to secure trolley stretchers and wheelchairs in vehicles, simple to lock, quick to release. Standard lengths 12in and 14in.

**G. N. UNWIN LTD**  
LUFTON, YEOVIL,  
ENGLAND  
Telephone: Yeovil 5359



## G. MOLLOY LTD

Civil Engineering Contractors

PINK BACK LANE  
LONGSIGHT  
MANCHESTER 12

Telephone 061-223 3466/224 1988 after hours



## News in brief

CORSEFORD School, run by the Scottish Council for Spastics, has received a cheque for £250 in memory of a young local footballer. David Keenan, 17, died tragically last November after an accident while he was playing football for Johnstone United. Soccer clubs in the area launched a fund to honour his memory and more than £700 was raised. The money has been presented by David's parents to various local charities.

MALCOLM DIPPLE, of 32 Shipton Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire, seeks a female pen-friend, 20-30 years.

THE Duffryn Club, Morriston, South Wales, has presented £150 to the Longfields Spastics Centre, Swansea. The money was raised with a women's soccer match and a cabaret evening at the club.

A LOCAL resident, aged 90, who is blind, has presented £30 to Derby and District Spastics Society. This will be paid into the group's fund for a new headquarters.

THE Bucking Bronco Country Music Club has presented a hob-cart to eight-year-old spastic Matthew Williams, of Kennington, Kent.

PATRONS of the Iron Horse bar and restaurant in Glasgow have collected £1,000 for the Rotary Centre for spastics.

SHEFFIELD Round Table in Yorkshire has presented a £400 motorised wheelchair to The Spastics Society.

THE District Council of Kerrier in Cornwall has donated £100 towards the cost of The Spastic Society's adventure holiday and field study centre, Llanivory.

SO many groups of handicapped people are taking end-of-season breaks with Warner Holidays this year that the company has arranged to extend scheduled closing dates of three of their Hayling Island holiday centres to accommodate them.

THE band of Brook School, Handsworth, Sheffield, not only play their musical instruments—they also make some of them. The do-it-yourself instrumentalists are putting on a special concert for Sheffield and District Spastics Society on June 30 in aid of the Society's welfare fund.

MISS MARGARET SHAW, a resident of the Buxton Adult Residential Centre for Spastics, has presented the Friends of Buxton with a radio for the use of all the residents.



WHEN singer Joan Regan officially opened The Spastics Society's latest charity shop last month, she met Miss Allyn Tungate, a resident of Coombe Farm Centre, Croydon, who presented her with a bouquet.

The shop, at 50 Eltham High Street, Eltham, Kent, is the 96th shop to be opened by the Society, and it made £525 in its first week of trading.

## Not a tension in sight as we adults played with paint

'WELL, of course you can go if you like,' said the Editor, somewhat dubiously, implying that if I wanted to make a fool of myself that was my own affair. The occasion was an art workshop for therapists and physically handicapped people. My practical experience of art in adult life was almost nil, but I was prepared to try anything once, and at least this promised to be something completely different.

On arrival at the art school in Whitechapel where the event was being held, I found that I was the only disabled person present, although it had been well advertised. I had momentary visions of being a solitary 'guinea pig' for the attentions of some 20 assorted occupational therapists and art teachers but they were all too busy doing their own thing to bother about me.

### Exercises

After a few warming-up 'tense-and-relax' exercises on the floor (for an athetoid, decidedly more tension than relaxation) we were asked to dip our hands into jars of paint and make marks to the sound of a tambourine on sheets of paper stapled to the floor.

It was also suggested that we removed shoes and socks to paint with our feet, thus re-creating the experience of many handicapped children who have useful movement only in their lower limbs. Some of the more extrovert spirits did this, but I suspect that

most of the women were, like me, wearing tights under their jeans and felt too shy to strip off in mixed company.

After this, each student was allocated a large sheet of paper about six feet high and three feet wide, pinned to a stand against the wall. Using brushes this time, we were invited to make abstract patterns suggested by music relayed on a tape recorder.

### ANNE PLUMMER

tries art therapy

switching to a different colour when the cassette was changed. As I am both tone-deaf and completely without hearing in the highest register, the tunes coming through to me were probably different from those heard by other people, but the visual result was quite impressive.

At first, using blue paint, I made a series of wide, sweeping movements, then, via angry red slashes, I progressed to delicate smudges of black and the design was completed by long gentle undulations in green. It was a most exhilarating, liberating experience and I was quite pleased with my 'picture' considering that I had hardly touched a brush since schooldays.

Our infrequent art lessons at school were never like this. They consisted mainly of drawing in exact perspective a few grasses in a pot—an exercise which my unsteady hands could never master. Painting in those days was a matter of scraping away with nearly hairless brushes at

## Voluntary Service is fun, says Christine

CHRISTINE SCALES, who won third prize in the Society's first Achievement Award was the subject of a *Spastics News* article in 1973. This told how she copes with running her own flat and a full-time job with a firm of candle manufacturers.

Now, Christine writes to tell us that in addition she has become a member of the International Voluntary Service. She finds this social work very satisfying and feels that other readers of *Spastics News* might be interested in giving up some of their spare time to help others.

IVS members in London spend part of their weekends working with children and old folk, visiting hospitals, decorating and gardening. As Christine says, 'It's worthwhile and it's fun.'

Anybody who is interested in joining should contact International Voluntary Service, 91 High Street, Harlesden, London NW10 4NU. (Tel 01-965 1446.)

## Pilgrims to Lourdes can make new friends at holiday centre

HOSANNA House, a pilgrimage and holiday centre for handicapped adults, was opened last year near Lourdes in Southern France. The building, designed as a two-storey modern hotel, was purchased and converted by the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust.

Offering accommodation for between 35 and 40 guests, the centre means that those above the age for joining the young people's tours organised annually by the trust, can still make regular visits to Lourdes.

Although the centre has a religious background based on the Shrine of St Bernadette, it welcomes handicapped people of all creeds and nationalities. It enables them to make new friends, share their problem and find spiritual comfort in a peaceful mountain setting.

The day-to-day running of Hosanna House is carried out by four Religious Sisters in permanent residence, and visiting groups of handicapped people are generally accom-

tary helpers including nursing and medical staff.

The handicapped and able-bodied visitors are expected to meet their own transport and accommodation costs.

Further details from Hosanna House Trust, 95 Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4LL.

## Spastic boys aid Trinity appeal

EDINBURGH'S £150,000 appeal on behalf of the city's new Trinity Centre for Spastics got off to a good start when a cheque for £75 was presented to chairman, Mr Ernest Herrald, by 15-year-old Alistair Dunbar on behalf of the Scouts of Westerlea School for Spastics.

'It represents three months hard work in the form of collections, saving paper and so forth,' commented Mr John Bruce, who is in charge of the Westerlea Troop, which is part of the 133rd City of Edinburgh Scout Group.

The occasion was a meeting of organisations and individuals throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians, called by the Trinity appeal group, to form appeal 'task forces' and organise activities in aid of the £400,000 scheme. Mr Herrald took the opportunity to introduce Councillor John Miller, Lord-Provost-designate of Edinburgh, who has agreed to be patron of the appeal.

Cdr Archie Cameron, Director of the Scottish Council for Spastics, said it was easy enough to set up an appeal committee but they were quite useless without a back-up from all sorts of people on the ground.

A. KINGSTON shopkeeper has provided a fine new aquarium for the hostel run by the North Surrey Spastics Society. He obtained it by means of Green Shield stamps collected by his customers over a period of three years.

Children from the local Kingsnorton junior school collected almost 650,000 stamps for the project.

minute squares of caked water-colour in dangerous tin boxes. Children today are lucky to have modern water paints in strong colours and ample opportunity to express their ideas. In our days, self-expression in art was a dirty word.

After the painting to music session we divided into pairs to conduct 'conversations' in paint. One partner made a mark on the paper and the other replied with a daub which somehow related to it. The girl partnering me was a complete stranger and the abstract-type patterns we started with were not very well integrated at all.

### Freudian?

Then suddenly a triangle became the roof of a house and we were well away with a whole 'estate' of buildings, trees, ponds and winding paths. My partner insisted on drawing neat little fences every-

where while I tried to keep to a more 'open plan' design. There was probably something very Freudian about it all. When the instructor came along, he looked at our early efforts and said: 'I can see there was a lot of tension there at first, but you're getting more relaxed now.'

The rest of the day was taken up with photography in which an instructor who works with handicapped children in hospital explained the use of Polaroid cameras; and building 'play houses' with PVC inflatables and scrap materials. Both of these required a certain amount of manual control and although it was interesting to see the ingenuity of other students' compositions, I found my own work on these projects less satisfying.

However, the day had been worth while for the painting alone, which was for me a completely new and exciting experience and it probably released a lot of tensions.



ORISKA CAMERON (left), Local Appeals Officer for the Society's South East Region, hands out collecting bags to

pupils from Godalming College. They were taking part in a door-knock which raised approximately £544 for spastics. College stu-

dents brought in £401.59 of this total.

Picture by courtesy of Surrey Advertiser.

**BIROTHS BAKERY**  
All types of **FANCY BREAD** and  
**OVEN-FRESH ROLLS**  
**237 HIGH STREET, LONDON, N.W.1**  
**Telephone: 01-485 2680**



# Walking sticks are no bar to John's mountain adventures

ONE of the greatest mountaineers, George Morrison, said that the reason he wanted to climb Everest was 'because it was there.' In John Hawkrige's case the motivation to climb most of the mountains in the British Isles was 'to take colour slides of the views'—and he climbs, not with Sherpas, but walking sticks.

Yet John was 19 before, as he puts it, he 'first walked for pleasure.' And now he has climbed Ben Nevis—the tallest peak in Britain.

John is 26 and a spastic, educated at Larchfield School for Spastics in Harrogate, and Potternewton Mansion School, Leeds, before going on to Park Lane College of Further Education. He is a collector of taxes with the Inland Revenue

'I set off at 7 am and it was about 10 o'clock before people started to pass me—there were not many of them. Halfway up a few low clouds drifted across, but these cleared. I was thinking of packing it in when a man appeared out of nowhere and offered to carry my haversack for a while. The last 500ft was covered in snow and ice.'

John spent half an hour on the top before deciding to attempt the downward journey. By that time the snow and ice had softened. It meant that his two walking sticks kept sinking in—and a short cut got him in some difficulties in the scree. Then halfway down he slipped. One walking stick broke and he lashed it together with a spare lace and carried on.

## 'Collapse'

But with a mile to go he was in a state of virtually total collapse. 'My feet were sore, the muscles in my arms were very badly strained and I had no skin left on my hands.'

Again help was at hand. Two men who had passed him earlier in the day had come out to look for him, guessing that he might be in difficulties. 'I was saved! I arrived back at the car at 12.30 am. Part of the sole had come off a boot and my foot was nailed in. They put me to bed—I was unable to move on my own.'

The walk had taken him 17 hours and on the Monday John set off again, this time to the Shetland Isles—but not to climb. 'I went to recover. I was in a shocking state—it would have been too much for my mam!'

John climbed other mountains such as Snowdon, Great Gable and Cairngorm in his practice for Ben Nevis. 'Every time the mountain frightened me I went away and climbed some smaller ones.'

Now that he has 'done' Ben Nevis, John has left the heights and taken to the water. Back trouble brought about by walking with two sticks has made climbing hard, so now he races an International Enterprise racing dinghy on Derwentwater. A Scout leader in Leeds for two years, he now goes back to his old school in Harrogate once a week to encourage the children there.

'My present ambition is to go round the world,' says John casually. He is doing it in stages. He has travelled to France and Spain already this year and is going to Switzerland and Italy before Christmas.

His family, he says, take his exploits 'pretty well in their stride—except my mam—she gets a bit emotional.'

## Communicating with computers

'PROBLEMS of communication between disabled people and computers' will be the subject of Andrew Berry's thesis for a PhD degree. Andrew, 24, is studying at the Department of Computer Science, Manchester University.

A former pupil of the society's Thomas Delarue School, he went to Enfield College in 1969 and then on to Manchester, where he gained an MSc in Computer Science last December.



AT the private view before the exhibition opened, Mrs Mary Belson, and artists Jocelyn and Yvette Galsworthy look at Jocelyn's portrait of Dorrien Belson, Chairman of The Spastics Society.

## Chairman was a 'subject' at London art show

A PASTEL drawing of Mr Dorrien Belson, Chairman of The Spastics Society, was one of the works on show at an art exhibition held in May at the Chenil Galleries, Chelsea, where a percentage of the proceeds was donated to Society funds.

The pictures shown were the work of Mrs Yvette Galsworthy and her daughter, Miss Jocelyn Galsworthy. Miss Galsworthy, who trained at Winchester Art School and afterwards in Munich, Spain, and Paris, held her first one-

man exhibition in 1963 and has exhibited regularly ever since in this country and abroad.

Most of her works on show at the Chenil Galleries were portraits in oils or pastel. They included a series of submarine heroes, commissioned in 1968 by HMS Dolphin, Gosport, and several child studies.

The majority of the portraits had been loaned by their respective owners for the purpose of the exhibition. There were also more than 30 sepia

ink drawings of architectural views on sale for between £35 and £80.

Mrs Yvette Galsworthy, who has been painting seriously for only 10 years, showed a number of landscape and flower studies in oils, with prices ranging from £20 to £100.

The exhibition was opened by Second World War heroine, Mrs Odette Hallows, GC, MBE, Legion d'Honneur, who spoke of the excellent work being done by The Spastics Society in the charity field.

## Canal holiday fun for children

A CANAL boat specially designed for handicapped children is being built by the Prince of Wales Committee of the Inland Waterways Association. The 70ft narrow boat has been designed in traditional style but it will have hinged ramps into the cockpit and saloon for easy wheelchair access.

Apprentices at Camel Lairds are carrying out the main construction work and a Maggie television appeal raised £1,000 to buy the engine. Apart from this, the committee has over £1,200 in the bank towards its eventual target of £5,000, and financial support is also being given by the Variety Club of Great Britain.

It is hoped that the boat will be ready next year when part of the Montgomery Canal is reopened. The Prince of Wales Committee under the chairmanship of Prince Charles has adopted a seven-mile stretch of the waterway between Llanymynech and Welshpool, and is anxious that handicapped and under-privileged children should be among those who will benefit most from its restoration to working order.

## Children filmed at play to aid speech problems

MALCOLM JONES, research psychologist at The Spastics Society's Meldreth Manor School, near Cambridge, has devised an ingenious method of studying the speech problems of some of the school's 120 physically and mentally handicapped children.

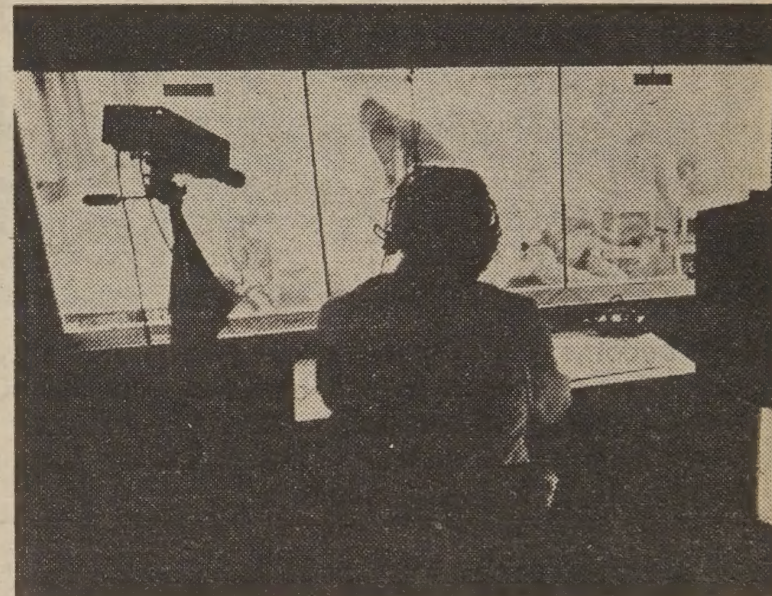
Even when children can speak a few words they often will not talk to their teachers. But sometimes they will chat to a reflection of themselves in a looking glass, and a special classroom has been set up at Meldreth where the psychologist can watch the children at play through a two-way mirror unobserved. A camera and tape-recorder 'memorise' the movements and sounds made by the children, so that speech and physiotherapists can analyse the patterns and decide how each child can best be helped.

The video tapes are also sent to parents so that they, too, can learn the best ways of communicating with their children and carry on the good work during school holidays.

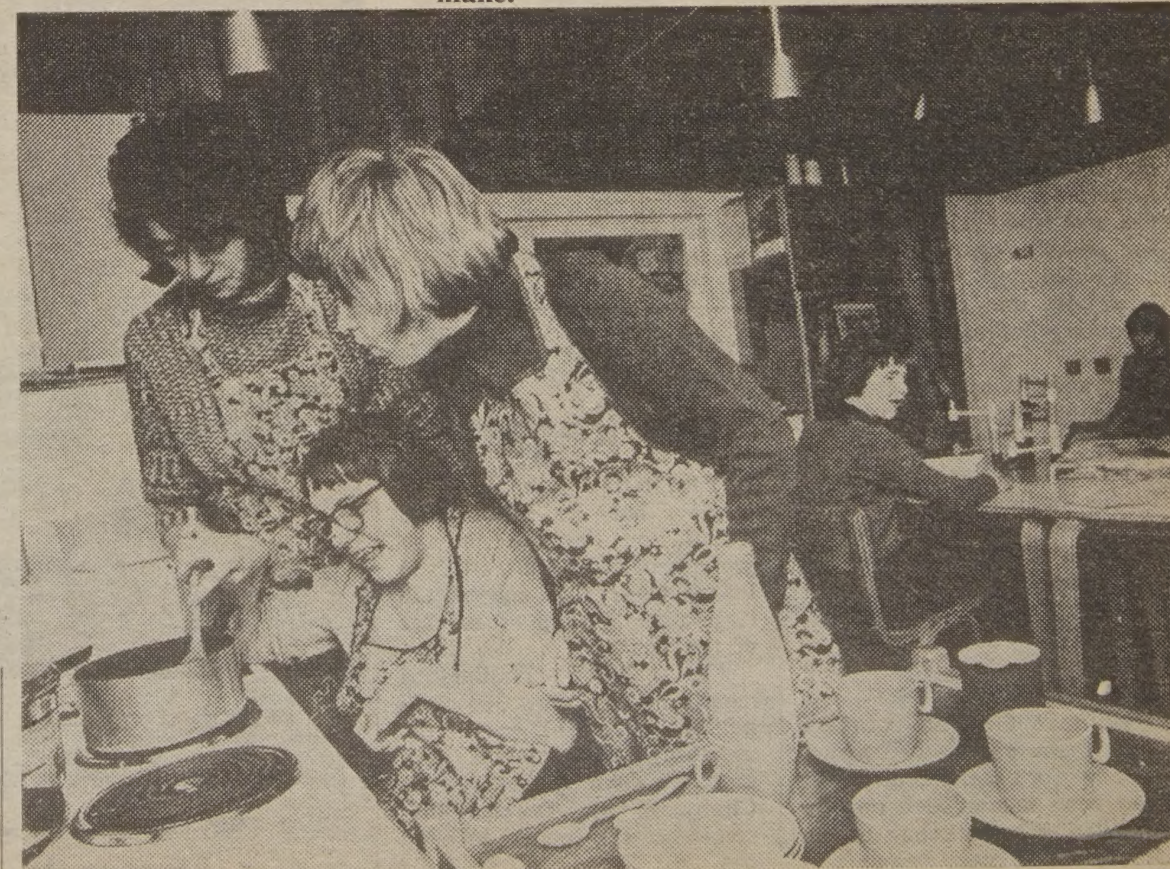
Meldreth was opened as a pioneering venture in 1966 and during that time has enriched the lives of many cerebral palsied children with

subnormal intelligence who might otherwise have spent their childhood in a hospital ward. The four 'family unit' houses into which the school is divided create a homely, non-institutional atmosphere for the children.

Apart from some of the 'ineducable' being taught to read and write, many of the Meldreth children make good physical progress while at the school and are encouraged to widen their social horizons by joining in a wide range of everyday activities.



THE school psychologist watches the children at play, filming their movements and recording the sounds they make.



OLDER pupils take part in a cookery lesson—part of the school's preparation for life in the outside world.

Pictures by courtesy of Cambridge Evening News.



John Hawkrige

in Leeds and recently won a Civil Service award to mark his achievements.

John explained: 'Up to the age of 16, the physical aspects of my life were very restricted. Then I started fishing, and walking became less difficult as I was climbing up and down river banks. At 19 I first walked for pleasure with a few short walks in the Yorkshire Dales.'

'In 1968 I got an invalid carriage and quickly progressed to the Lake District. In September I attempted my first mountain—Skiddaw—and failed about 300ft from the top.'

That was when he climbed alone, but the following year he successfully climbed Helvellyn (3,118ft) with a group, and a year later conquered Skiddaw (3,053ft) and Scafell Pike (3,210ft) with his brother, who was killed in a car crash three years ago.

After climbing Scafell Pike his next aim was Ben Nevis—all 4,406ft of it—but the first sight of it 'terrified' him.

'On further visits the weather was very poor and I used to sigh with relief. Then last June in a spell of very fine weather I decided on the spur of the moment to have a last—or maybe not last—attempt.'

He camped in Glen Nevis, notified the necessary authorities, checked his emergency equipment and swam in the local baths to loosen up.



# Take your partners for dance festival



NOT only team-mates but soon-to-be-married were Diana Brown and Alan Kerwen, of the Goldfish team from The Princess Marina Centre, Seers Green, Bucks. Their wedding was on May 17 at St Joseph's, Gerrards Cross. Also in the team was Brian Bowry, whose bride Pat watched from the sidelines.



IT'S become a tradition for the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith to pop in on the Palais for the occasion and here Councillor George Simpson presents the Musical Chairs, Oxford, with their shield. Also in the picture (standing) is the captain, Tony Purbrick, who said: 'Although I do all the training I can't dance myself.'

## Wheelchairs glide at the Palais

THEY came from all over the country—schoolchildren, newly-weds, soon-to-be-weds, old age pensioners, some for the first time and some for the fifth, but all with a common aim—to show that theirs was the best team at The Spastics Society's annual wheelchair dance festival.

There were 18 teams, the biggest entry so far, including first timers, the Musical Chairs from Oxford and regulars The Choughs from Cornwall—with a record of wins behind them—and both were to win firsts during the day.

They were welcomed to the Hammersmith Palais, donated free by Mrs Julie Morley, Executive Director of Mecca Promotions, by Mr Douglas Arter, Chairman of the Good Neighbour's Trust.

The judges were Mrs A. Monzani, Mr Arter, Mr E.



MISS ELIZABETH DENDY with the Erossians, winners of Children's Group 'A,' after presenting the shield, which is held by Patricia Gay.

Ghys and Mr Tony Frank, Assistant Director, Regions of the Society.

The guests included Mrs Morley, Miss Elizabeth Dendy, Senior Executive of the Sports Council, and Mr Ken Long, Trustee of the Good Neighbours Trust, all of whom presented prizes.

This year the festival was divided into three sections, creative dancing, competitive dancing and social dancing. The winners were:

### CHILDREN'S GROUP 'A':

1, Erossians from Coney Hill School, Bromley, Kent; 2, Plant Y Delyn senior team from Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Penarth; 3, Plant Y Delyn junior team.

### CHILDREN'S GROUP 'B':

1, Grangers 1 from Wilfred Pickles School, Lincs; 2, Tartan Wheelers, Westerlea School, Edinburgh; 3, George's Dragon, from Hangers Wood School, Oxhey.

ADULTS GROUP 'A': 1, The Choughs from Cornwall; 2, The Fifers from Glenrothes; 3, Havering Wheelers from Romford, Essex.

ADULTS GROUP 'B': 1, Musical Chairs from Oxford; 2, Goldfish from The Princess Marina Centre, Seer Green, Bucks; joint 3, Sea Shells from the South Coast and The Flying Scots from Edinburgh.



MASCOTS as well as wheelchairs took the floor as the Havering Wheelers competed. Mrs Winifred Barker and Mrs Doreen Flood with their furry friends who, alas, did not bring them quite the luck they were after. The Wheelers came third.



GEORGE'S DRAGON — named after their headmistress at Hangers Wood School, Oxhey, show their standard. Left to right: James Bunce, Simon Alderton, Graham Smith and Paul Reeves.

## Inflation cuts spending

FROM FRONT PAGE

have had to cope with such difficulties as betting duty being levied on charitable pools and eating into much-needed funds. Local authorities are zero rated for VAT, but charities must pay up. A Lotteries Bill which must have the end result of less income for charity, receives Government blessing. And the latest blow is the decision that voluntary bodies must pay full rates on the shops they run for charitable purposes—a decision which will cost The Spastics Society £25,000 yearly.

Mr Loring frankly declared to his audience of collectors and supervisors of the Spastics Football Pool attending the Blackpool Convention, that the Society was running into the red, and this despite stringent economies and administration costs of only 6p in the £.

He told the Pool workers that their efforts in raising money for the handicapped had been magnificent, and he thanked them on behalf of the handicapped men, women and children in the Society's schools and centres to whom

their effort had given hope and a real chance in life.

The Society regarded the Pool workers as 'the most important charity troops in the field,' and he went on, 'It is your efforts—and your extra efforts in obtaining more members that can stave off some of the effects on inflation on the Society and those other charities that benefit from the Spastics Pool.'

## Chairman at the Regatta

EVERYBODY has heard of Henley, but the Wallingford Regatta on the river in the grounds of the Society's Castle Priory College is one of the largest on the upper reaches of the Thames.

The 24th Wallingford regatta in May drew 300 competitors from all over the country. The prizes were presented to them by the Society's Chairman, Mr Dorrien Belson, who was invited to hand out the trophies by the Wallingford Regatta Committee.



GLAMOROUS special guest was Mrs Julia Morley, Mecca Promotion's Executive Director. Mecca gave the Palais free and here she is presented with a bouquet by Mrs Barbara Turner, of Musical Chairs.

Every local group for spastics welcomes new volunteers. Could YOU help? Your local group is: